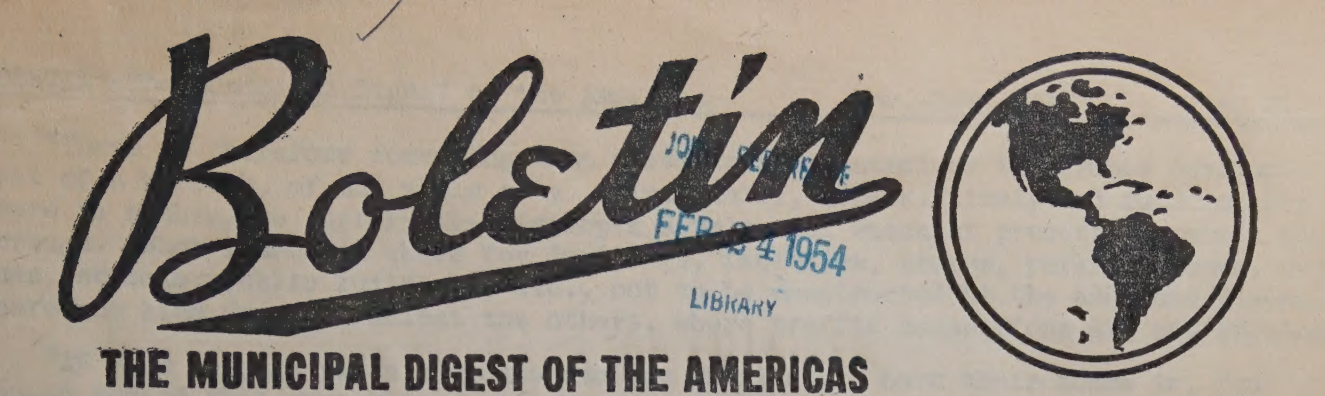


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Argentina

Under the initials I.P.R.U. (Instituto de Planeamiento Regional y Urbano) [Regional and Urban Planning Institute] and with its seat at Buenos Aires, an organization is working the purposes of which are: "To promote the investigation and diffusion of all aspects in connection with the development of cities and regions in order thus to be able to contribute toward the orientation of public opinion on the possibilities that joint technique on regional and urban planning offer to our country, so that it may develop by making full use of its human, natural and technological resources to the benefit of the people of Argentina."

At the present time this organization is carrying on active propaganda trying to create a proper atmosphere so that each city shall develop in accord with a Master Plan.

From "Informaciones del I.P.R.U.", the official organ of publicity of the organization we are summarizing an article entitled "My house and my borough" which shows us the manner in which propaganda is carried on to awaken in the citizens a collective desire for improvement through a knowledge of the advantages obtained from an adequate planning for cities and regions.

"Many families are extremely careful in their homes: they have seen that it is properly planned, have had it constructed with excellent materials, and conserve it as new for many years. However, that prevision, that care takes place only within the limits of the lot the house is built on; sometimes it goes as far as the sidewalk but very rarely does it reach the street; the streets are "no man's land" and every citizen expects the city to take care of it, and speaks of the city as if it were something that does not concern him.

"In fact, citizens have shown a remarkable care in planning their homes and their gardens yet have been unable to join and apply that care to the development of their borough and have allowed building of any kind to be carried on therein, mixing the homes with factories, schools with stores, moving picture theatres with churches, and so on.

"The reason for this contrast between the development of a home and of the borough is difficult to limit to a single aspect: if we look at it from an individual viewpoint we will be told: "But what can I do if the city does not properly make plans for the borough and with a view to the social use of the land and not merely from a speculative viewpoint, developing it rather from the latter because the Councilmen sees in this a source of revenue from taxes?" If we look at this from the municipal viewpoint, the Mayor, the Councilmen and the technicians of the city will say: "But who are those residents of Borough X? So they expect the city to do everything while the only thing they do is to protest?".

"There is therefore something that prevents the control of the proper development of a borough, of the whole city. Financially, constructively and functionally there is nothing to justify that improper development which at present threatens any borough. What reason is there for dwellings, factories, stores, parks, gardens, avenues, streets, public buildings, etc., not to be constructed at the adequate places, where one kind does not molest the others, where traffic congestions are not created?

"If your borough is an adequate one for families to have their homes in, you should demand that some things will be prohibited like for instance that an industrial instals his factory there, or another to establish a "boite" as it is happening in districts that are naturally residential. That prohibition is undoubtedly a just and reasonable restriction of the ownership of the land, from the viewpoint of the surroundings and we will succeed in having this done when the neighbors, besides caring and looking after their homes shall be strong and look after their borough and their city.

"But that restriction should be applied before someone decides to make an anti-social use of the land, that is, without waiting until it becomes necessary to refuse to grant him a building permit. Restrictions on the ownership of the land must be preventive rather than curative. For this purpose the use of the property in a borough must be qualified, just as in your home you have qualified or decided upon the use to be made of each room, and in the same manner, on the map of your borough there must be a residential, a commercial and a recreational zone.

"And here, in passing, let us tell you that that qualification of the use of the land is known as "zoning", a fundamental subject under a master plan.

"You should begin to familiarize yourselves with these words."

Brazil

IV Congress of Paulist Municipalities. At Santo Andre, State of Sao Paulo, the Fourth State Congress of Paulist Municipalities, organized by the Paulist Association of Municipalities, was held from July 11 to 19 last, as a part of the festivities of the Fourth Century of its foundation.

The Executive Committee of this Congress, at the initiative of Councilman Mr.Luis Lobo Neto, was set up as follows: President: Mayor Fioravante Zampol; First Vice-President: Dr. Jose Cabral de Almeida Amazonas, President of the Board of Aldermen; Second Vice-President: Dr. Jose Ribeito de Figuereido, Legal Adviser of the Mayor's office; Secretary: Councilman Mario Andrew Medeiros Rheim; Treasurer: Councilman Engineer Antonio Pezzolo, and Executive Director: Mr. Nabor Manga, of the Paulist Association of Municipalities.

The Agenda contained the following subjects:

I. Problems of a juridical nature relative to the municipal institution.
II. The municipality from a political and administrative viewpoint.
III. The Municipality and the welfare problems. The Municipality and the problems of prevision.
IV. The Municipality and economic-financial problems.
V. The Municipality and educational problems. The Municipality and health problems.

The Congress was carried on in accordance with the regulations from which we are setting forth below three of the subdivisions of Article 3 because the provisions thereof are considered essential to the success of a meeting of this kind:

"1) The Congress shall coordinate the resolutions of previous congresses for the future guidance of the Paulist Association of Municipalities in order that the municipal movement may acquire growing objectivity.

"2) The members of the Congress shall not be allowed to take the floor to introduce motions, requests, suggestions, addresses or communications foreign to the agenda.

"3) All the papers introduced should end by showing, in a clear and precise manner, the conclusions thereof."

The Municipal Mayor and the President of the Executive Committee of the Congress Mr. Fioravante Zampol, in welcoming and appreciating the attendance at the Congress of the municipal officials of the State of Sao Paulo and of the members thereof in general, said "May the municipal ideal triumph, through the redemption of the municipalities, for the greatness of the nation."

Chile

III National Conference of Municipalities. During the month of August last, from the 26th to the 30th, the third meeting of the National Conference of Municipalities of Chile was held at Santiago with an attendance of approximately 365 delegates, among which were high authorities and officials of the Republic; representatives of all the municipalities of the nation, as well as of the Inter-American Municipal Organization, of the Agrarian Credit Fund, of the Association of Municipal Employees of Chile and of the Union of Municipal Laborers of Chile.

His Excellency, the President of the Republic, Don Carlos Ibañez del Campo was appointed Honorary President of the Conference, and Mrs. Maria Teresa del Canto Molina, Mayoress of Santiago, acted as President of the same.

Under its agenda the following subjects were discussed:

Law regarding new municipal revenue.

Municipal intervention in the matter of subsistence.

Municipal powers in health matters.

Amendments to the Law of Municipal Organization and Powers and a study of the Special Laws in relation thereto.

Municipal Powers on traffic matters.

Several subjects of general interest: The construction of dwellings for municipal officials; Retirement of municipal employees; Social welfare for municipal laborers and clerks; Readjustment of salaries of municipal laborers and clerks; Central purchasing agency; Privilege and perdiem allowance of councilmen; Council of Defense of the municipal autonomy; the construction of new schools; Cultural extension departments; Tourism development corporation; Municipal bathing establishments; Relations between the municipalities and the Comptroller General of the Republic; Amendment of the Cooperatives Law; Safety constructions in case of floods; Charges for electric power supplies; Regulation of the military service of labor; Regarding excessive budgetary expenditures; Project of a Municipal Development and Assistance Fund; etc.

On this occasion the General Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Conference, Mr. Luis E. Valenzuela Candela, presented a summary of the work done by the Executive Committee during the year elapsed between July 1952 and June 1953, in which may be noted the activities carried on by the National Conference of Municipalities in favor of the municipal interests of the nation.

At the end of the meeting the new Executive Committee of the Conference which shall be in existence until the next meeting was elected, the President, Don Sergio Ceppi Mayol de Lupe, Alderman of La Cisterna being reelected President and Don Roberto Phillips Reyes, Alderman of La Granja and Don Luis E. Valenzuela Candela, being respectively reelected General Treasurer and General Secretary. Messrs Manuel Fernández Díaz and Eugenio Forné Ureta, Aldermen of the City of Santiago, were elected first and second Vice-Presidents, respectively.

Mexico

Boards of moral, civic and material improvement. In the State of Sonora these Boards are set up at each seat of municipal government having their own juridical personality, the purpose of which is to obtain and guide cooperation by private individuals, without distinction as to sex, age or political, social or religious ideas, in activities useful to the community in its three aspects, moral, civic and material.

For the same purposes Committees on Moral, Civic and Material Improvement may be wet up at Police Districts and Delegations the operation of which shall be coordinated with the respective Board at the seat of the Municipal Government. Likewise a State organization with its seat in the City of Hermosillo has been created, entitled: "General Directorate of Coordination and Supervision of the Boards of Moral, Civic and Material Improvement". The Governing Board of the Boards is made up of a President, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and three or more members elected by majority vote of the people of the respective municipality pursuant to a call made by the Municipal President (Mayor) and a Representative of the Governor, for a term of three years. Persons who discharge duties or hold public office in the municipality, State or Federation cannot be members of the Board. Membership is honorary and voluntary, but those who accept their appointment thereto are obliged efficiently and honestly to carry on the work entrusted to them.

The municipal authorities have the right to be present during the debates of the Boards and Committees, to be advised of the activities of those organizations and to state their viewpoints before them. If there is a disagreement between both sides, the matter in conflict will be submitted to the Executive for his decision.

These Boards and Committees on Improvement must seek their own resources through collections, festivities, athletic events, special contributions or in any other lawful manner at their command.

The activities of the local groups and organizations which, with similar names to those of the Boards have charge of carrying out works or material improvements are discontinued, their activities being placed in care of the Boards corresponding to their jurisdiction.

The sources of information of our publications can be consulted in the specialized Library of the C.P.C.I. where it is sent by several organizations and private individuals.